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ABSTRACT

This booklet on recreation, 1 in a series of 12, covers all the basic aspects of personal- and family-money management. Suitable for use by high school and college students as well as adults, this handbook suggests ways to plan recreation expenses for special activities, equipment, and vacation travel. Section 1 looks at the need for recreation and getting the most from recreation through planning. In section 2, setting recreational goals and planning recreational expenses are discussed. Section 3 offers lists of recreation possibilities. Section 4 sets forth some general guidelines for renting equipment, buying new equipment and clothing, finding alternatives to renting and buying equipment, joining health clubs, and renting or buying recreational vehicles. Planning vacations and travel, discussed in section 5, focuses on considerations of destination, mode of transportation, foreign travel, and payment methods. A list of organizations, books, and pamphlets is provided. (YLB)

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MONEY MANAGEMENT

YOUR RECREATION DOLLAR

Edited by

MONEY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Joyce E. Bryant
Vice-President-Director

Nancy H. Baran
Editor

Sharon M. Tarrant
Editor

HOUSEHOLD INTERNATIONAL
Prospect Heights, Illinois

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For fifty of its one hundred years of existence, HFC has prepared and distributed **Money Management** educational materials. Why do we sponsor this type of program? Just as a good physician is interested in the physical well-being of individuals and families, we have a deep interest in their financial health. Our present **Money Management** materials include booklets, filmstrips and leaflets that cover the most important areas of personal and family finance. Their content is based on continual research and experience, as well as on consultation with specialists in education, business and government.

It is gratifying that our materials continue to be used so extensively by educators in high schools, colleges and universities . . . by extension workers . . . journalists, radio and TV commentators . . . by social workers . . . youth counselors . . . clergymen . . . by leaders in business, industry, government and the community . . . as well as by individuals and families. This acceptance encourages our continued support of a program which has as its aim the development of informed, educated consumers, well able to protect their economic interests.

G. R. Ellis
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Household Finance Corporation

Introduction

Recreational activities and their costs are a significant part of our lives. Advanced technology not only provides untold recreational opportunities, but permits us to realize them—by granting us more free time and sparing our personal energies. There is far more emphasis today on individual growth and development, in which recreation plays a vital role.

The aim of **YOUR RECREATION DOLLAR?** To help you make the wisest possible investment in recreation—of your time, energy AND money!

4

Table of contents

FREE TIME, FREE CHOICE AND RECREATION 4
Why Recreation? 4
Getting The Most From Recreation 5
MANAGING YOUR RECREATION DOLLARS 6
Setting Recreation Goals 6
Planning Recreation Expenses 7
YEAR-ROUND RECREATION ACTIVITIES 10
Activities For Keeping Physically Fit 11
Enjoying The Outdoors 11
Creative Arts 11
Right-At-Home 11
Pay-When-You-Go Activities 12
Organizations And Community Service 12
Educational Activities 12
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING 13
Renting Equipment 14
Buying New Equipment And Clothing 14
Inexpensive Alternatives 15
Health Club Memberships 15
Recreation Vehicles 16
VACATION AND TRAVEL 20
Planning A Vacation 20
Where Will You Stay? 23
How Will You Go? 27
Foreign Travel 33
Paying For The Good Times 35
Before Leaving Home 36
SUGGESTED RESOURCES 38
ACKNOWLEDGMENT 40

Free time, free choice and recreation

Recreation can be defined as the "refreshment of one's body and mind after labor, through diverting activity and play." Free time, on the other hand, is generally considered simply time away from work or studies—and may or may not be devoted to activities that refresh. Much if not most of it is needed for such essentials as eating, sleeping, and traveling to and from work or school, as well as for basic subsistence tasks like meal preparation and cleanup, shopping, errands, car maintenance, personal grooming and appointments. Time away from work or classes is also devoted to activities and responsibilities in the school, church or community, and fulfilling commitments to relatives and friends. In other words, "free" time is often used for those things we must do, usually worthwhile and enjoyable, but which do not necessarily bring rest and relief from stress and boredom.

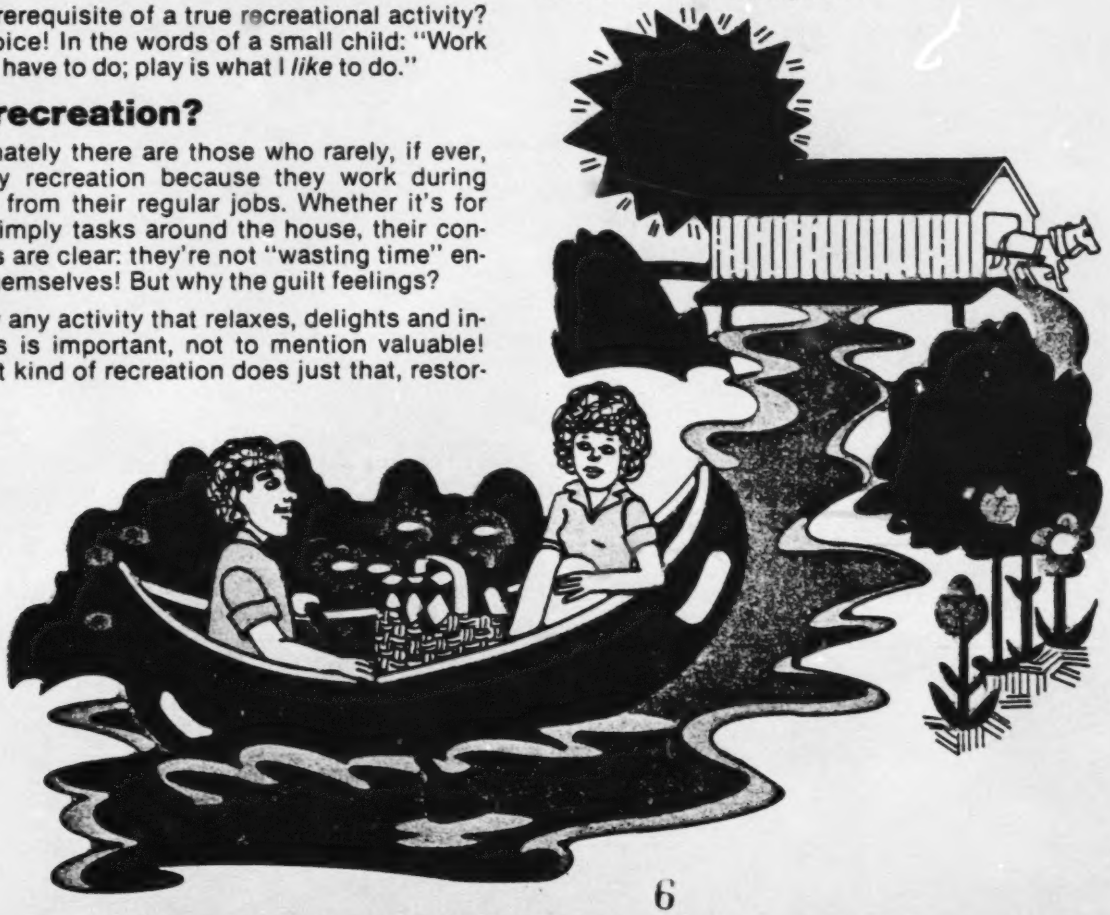
The prerequisite of a true recreational activity? Free choice! In the words of a small child: "Work is what I have to do; play is what I *like* to do."

Why recreation?

Unfortunately there are those who rarely, if ever, have any recreation because they work during time off from their regular jobs. Whether it's for pay or simply tasks around the house, their consciences are clear: they're not "wasting time" enjoying themselves! But why the guilt feelings?

Surely any activity that relaxes, delights and invigorates is important, not to mention valuable! The right kind of recreation does just that, restoring the energies depleted in work and promoting a general sense of well-being. It also helps one to attain a sense of identity and achievement, thereby increasing his or her self-esteem. Through active participation in recreational activities, one becomes more interesting and involved, and develops a more positive attitude toward life. Obviously recreation can do much for one's mental and physical health!

Freely chosen, recreation can provide the opportunities to get in touch with ourselves, to discover and then respond to our unique personal needs and desires. Such attention to oneself benefits others too: when an individual puts at least some of his or her free time into a highly satisfying activity, he returns refreshed and renewed to his job or studies, household and family responsibilities, and personal relationships. True re-creation has taken place!



Getting the most from recreation

We have more time off the job today than people have ever had—with 40-hour instead of 50- or 60-hour work weeks, paid vacations and a number of three-day weekends annually. In addition, some people are choosing to retire from work earlier—at 55 or 60. With our greater longevity, we often have years of free time ahead of us. (It should be emphasized that enjoyable recreational activities for these years do not automatically present themselves on one's 65th birthday. "What will I do now?" is a question that should be asked and answered long before that time!) In any case, fewer hours of work mean more opportunities for creative, satisfying recreational activities. But to get the most from the investments of time, energy and money required, you need to think and plan.

Think about yourself. Learn to know yourself, what most interests and delights you. Be honest! Do you bowl or play tennis, for instance, because you deeply love the sport, or because your friends do and it's the "in" thing? Keep in mind that one person's joy might be another's torment. An activity can be popular, exciting, even worthwhile from many points of view, but it won't recreate you if you're miserable. Be content to share other activities with your bowling or tennis buddies, and find a pursuit you will truly enjoy. No doubt you'll acquire a whole new set of friends who love it as much as you do! There are thousands of ways in which to spend recreation time. The reward comes in choosing those activities that give you real pleasure and satisfaction.

Think about your free time. How much do you have? Is it available in small or large blocks? Many of us can plan interesting activities for large chunks of time, but feel we usually waste smaller ones. If your time is often fragmented, there are still many activities that may give pleasure—reading a chapter in a book, writing or calling a friend, working on your latest craft project, repotting a plant, riding your bike around the neighborhood, relaxing and listening to music. Put those small moments to excellent use!

Think about fuel requirements. As the cost of gasoline continues to rise, this expenditure takes a larger share of the recreation dollar. Such increases may affect the way we pursue recreational activities—e.g., arranging closer-to-home vacations, car pooling to the local game, or shopping on the way home from our recreational endeavors. Rising fuel costs will certainly influence our recreational plans. Not only will we have to allocate more funds for fuel, but perhaps explore other means of transportation for long-distance travel.

Think about the costs involved. These run the gamut—from little or nothing for reading or bird-watching, for example, to many hundreds of dollars for lavish vacations. For help in determining what you can comfortably afford to spend and then spending it wisely, see the following section.

Think about your work and the energy it requires. Don't be unduly influenced by conventional wisdom, though! For example, the notion that a person who does strenuous work should gravitate to the easy chair after-hours, or that one who sits at a desk all day should participate in active sports, might or might not hold true for you. It's not so much the change of pace, but the change of activity that renews and refreshes. You know your own energy levels best—act accordingly!

Consider your full-time job from another standpoint. Is it deeply satisfying? Does it involve any creativity and skill? Initiative? Do you work wholeheartedly? People have a need for accomplishment, a sense of identity and a feeling of worth, as well as the satisfaction of developing their abilities. Even if your job does provide these, you would still do well to seek them in your free time. You will also enjoy a departure from your customary role and its routine and worries.

Managing your recreation dollars

Billions of dollars are spent each year on recreation and leisure. The figure increases rapidly as we invest our hard-earned money on everything from TVs and campsites to music lessons and sports equipment.

Without careful planning, it is all too easy to overspend, or to apply those dollars to activities and pursuits you don't really enjoy. For the greatest satisfaction from the recreation dollars you have to spend, begin by setting realistic goals and then planning your expenditures to meet them.

Setting recreation goals

When planning your recreational activities, be creative. Explore the avenues open to you. Browse through newspapers and magazines for ideas, take a trip to the library, call your local park or recreation department. They are great sources of helpful information which may save you money in the long run. Write to those organizations, companies and governmental departments that provide useful materials. You will find some of these on page 38.

Consider a variety of activities in your plan. Recreation encompasses far more than sports, games and other physical activities. Such pursuits are undoubtedly valuable—promoting good health, coordination and physical development, and helping develop sportsman-like attitudes, leadership abilities and meaningful relationships with others. But more passive, solitary forms of recreation have their place too. Sometimes we need to think, plan and daydream. We may feel the need to be entertained—at a concert, the movies or in front of a TV set. Sometimes we entertain ourselves—by playing the piano or guitar, singing or dancing. Even when hobbies and creative pursuits are not physically exertive, we derive great pleasure from them.

Your recreation goals—and the amount you spend to achieve them—will depend on many factors.

- Are you single or married? Do you have children at home? As you move from one stage in life to the next, your recreation needs change, as does the money available to fulfill them. What you do as a young single is altered dramatically when you have children to consider or are of retirement age.
- Do you live in a metropolitan area, in the suburbs, in a rural community? Where you live

often determines the facilities available for low-cost recreational opportunities. Are museums, parks, community swimming pools and tennis courts, etc., easily accessible? Will you be allowed to use the playground of the local school for team sports?

- How is the weather? Do you live in the north or south? Are oceans or lakes, deserts or mountains nearby? Your climate and natural surroundings may provide many possibilities—skiing, surfing, riding, hiking, collecting shells, for example. Do you find the climate to your taste? If not, consider saving for a vacation in the kind of area you enjoy. Two weeks of sheer delight—eagerly anticipated, nostalgically recalled—will do much to brighten the remaining 50!
- How much space do you have? Do you live in a home with a basement, or a one-bedroom apartment? Does your dream of a darkroom compete with your need for a bathroom? Have you room for a greenhouse, or is a window box more your size? Can you leave your woodworking or sewing equipment out and close the door, or must you clean up when you finish for the day? For some, finding ample space for a hobby or craft is a worthy long-term goal.

Planning recreation expenses

The monthly recreation allotment is perhaps the most flexible of all items in your spending plan. Because it often varies from month to month, your activities are likely to vary also. What you can spend may often depend on how much money is available after other expenses have been met, but funds for recreation should be allocated as you would those for other needs and wants. Even a small amount, set aside regularly for your recreation enjoyment, will do wonders for your physical and mental health!

To determine how much you have to spend on recreation monthly, begin with your current income and expenses.* First, total your monthly income after taxes, and deduct from it your monthly expenses for fixed items such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities, installment payments, savings, etc. Next subtract expenditures for flexible items—food, clothing, home furnishings, transportation, etc. The amount remaining is that available for recreation each month.

*YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN, listed inside the back cover, provides additional information on setting up an overall spending and saving plan.

Plan for managing recreation expenses

Recreation Expenses	Estimated Monthly Cost	Estimated Annual Cost
Day-To-Day Activities		
Special Equipment and Clothing		
Special Events		
Vacations		
Miscellaneous Expenses		
Future Recreation Costs		
Total Cost		

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Now you can decide how to spend it. The chart on the previous page and the descriptions below give guidelines for planning various recreation expenses.

- **Day-to-day activities** include those arising weekly, biweekly or monthly, such as movies, ball games, dates, school activities, dining out, baby sitters, lessons or instructions in sports, music, art, etc.
- **Special equipment and clothing** include golf clubs, games, barbeque sets, hobby supplies, ski apparel, tennis shoes, protective equipment for various sports, etc.
- **Special events** include parties, dances, concerts, etc.
- **Vacations** include all vacation costs—transportation, food and lodging, special activities, souvenirs, etc.
- **Miscellaneous expenses** include club dues, magazine subscriptions, class tuition, books, etc.
- **Future recreation goals** include saving for a family room, boat, camper, piano or other recreational items for which you are setting money aside.

Fill in the chart, beginning with the categories that are most important to you. The type and number of expenses you list will depend on your special interests . . . the size of your family . . . the ages of its members . . . the cost and availability of recreation activities in your area. On large-ticket items, such as vacations and future recreation goals, it may be easier to begin with your estimated annual costs. To determine how much you need to save each month to meet these costs, divide this estimated annual figure by twelve. The amount of money remaining can then be divided into the other categories.

If you find your interests exceed your money supply, there are several things you might consider doing. Can you reduce some of your flexible expenses? As a teenager, can you get a part-time job to earn money for your own recreation? Have you explored low-cost entertainment possibilities in your community? Can you go in with interested neighbors on the cost of special tools or equipment? If you generate enough demand, will your apartment or condominium complex furnish a workroom and/or tools on a loan basis?

Year-round recreation activities

Do you know exactly the kind of recreation you like and lack only the time to pursue it? If so, you can skip this section. Those who seek something new and different, however, may find inspiration in the following lists. Although just a sampling of the almost endless recreation possibilities are included, they may stimulate your thinking along these lines. Only a few may hold strong appeal, but that's good—most of us lack the time, energy and money to pursue them all!

The suggestions are highly varied. Are you interested in more quiet, passive activities or in something demanding mental or physical effort? In those to be enjoyed at home or away, indoors or out? Do you prefer impromptu or planned activities? Some of these possibilities provide enrichment and/or creative challenge; others are basically pastimes. There are those for either participants or onlookers, for groups or the individual. Some demand special training and skill while others require no experience at all. And if you are one of those people who derives much joy from serving others, see the list of community and service endeavors. Whatever, wherever, however —your choice should refresh and renew YOU.

Remember, intelligent consumption of recreation begins with the rejection of things you don't truly enjoy. (This is likely to reduce your expenses right off the bat!) Don't be afraid to try something new, though— there's no better way to see how much you like it. But be careful not to take on so many activities you must struggle to squeeze them all in. Allow for some empty spaces in your days! Too much ambition and too little time is a formula for disappointment.

It is evident that some suggestions fit into more than one category, but space limitations decree one listing for each. Being outdoors, for instance, is obviously part of the appeal of bicycling, but it is listed under physical activities. And although handicrafts and other creative pursuits are usually engaged in at home, they perhaps more properly belong in "Creative Arts." The placement really doesn't matter, as long as you obtain worthwhile ideas!

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Activities for keeping physically fit

Die-hard exercise buffs won't need suggestions from the list, but less active folk will be amazed to see how invigorating such activities can be. They help keep you in good form and good health, but to be on the safe side, check with a doctor before undertaking anything strenuous. There are suggestions here for those eager to make new friends as well as for those who prefer solitude. Many require only small investments of time and money, particularly if sponsored by your local park or recreation department. Call the office for information.

- bicycling
- bowling
- jogging
- swimming
- calisthenics
- tennis
- walking
- skiing
- skating
- volleyball
- softball
- soccer
- hockey
- racquetball

Enjoying the outdoors

Of all groups of recreational activities, these are among the most restful. Usually pursued at a leisurely pace in areas free of noise and crowds, they provide welcome relief from an overscheduled life. More and more people are discovering the great delights and satisfaction to be found in contemplating a magnificent view, picnicking in the woods or planting a garden.

- gardening
- picnics
- fishing
- boating
- bird-watching
- camping
- nature study
- hiking
- snowmobiling
- touring the countryside
- hunting

Creative arts

There is enormous pleasure and satisfaction in coming up with something new, entirely yours, and unavailable elsewhere at any price. It's a stimulating experience and the energy and enthusiasm generated can carry over into other areas of your life. Surely that is rewarding in itself, but avid pursuit of an art or craft will often lead to new friendships and recognition as well. Some amateur craftsmen and artists end up as professionals, some in business, and others manage to do both! Instructions in some of the following activities are offered at a number of community colleges, YMCAs, YWCAs, and through local park and recreation programs.

- sewing
- interior design
- dancing
- needlework
- pottery
- acting
- painting
- writing
- photography
- refinishing furniture
- remodeling houses
- jewelry making
- singing
- playing musical instruments

Right-at-home

There's no place like home for recreational activities—the location is convenient, there are no closing hours and the rates are great! A home is adaptable to a variety of pursuits, too: whether your idea of fun is curling up with a book or holding perpetual open house for friends, home is a great place to be. Where else can you so utterly relax and be completely yourself? An array of at-home activities you enjoy is your best insurance against loneliness and boredom.

- indoor gardening
- gourmet cookery
- music—listening and/or performing
- entertaining, being entertained
- games
- reading
- collections of various kinds: stamps, shells, antiques, etc.
- educational television programs
- discussion groups

Pay-when-you-go activities

When your recreational tastes run to rock concerts, dining out, big league ball games or any other kind of paid entertainment, the costs usually depend upon the caliber and/or experience of those providing your good time. If you are willing to give amateurs, budding professionals and obscure restaurants a trial, costs may be considerably less.

- movies
- concerts
- theatre
- sports events
- dining out
- amusement parks
- museums

Organizations and community service

With so many important services needed by society, there should be at least one tailor-made for your particular skills, talents, interests and age group. Select an activity you can pursue with gusto! It is likely that the contribution you choose to make will take little in money, but as much time and effort as you wish to expend. The rewards are great: you will meet people with similar interests and values, gain the satisfaction of helping others, develop abilities you didn't even know you had, and best of all, feel yourself to be a valuable and contributing member of society. And there's no forced retirement!

- tutoring
- civic groups
- political activities
- church groups
- helping the handicapped
- fund raising
- environmental cleanup
- hospital volunteer
- youth leadership
- park and recreation leadership opportunities

Educational activities

Some people find learning to be the most stimulating free-time activity of all—the secret being to select something of deep interest to you. It may be learning to play an instrument, repairing a car, taking shorthand or working toward a degree. Some community colleges offer free or reduced tuition to people over 65 years of age. Whatever you choose to do, it will be one of the best investments of time, effort and money you'll ever make. Growth is always exhilarating!

- adult education courses
- college courses
- crafts instruction
- gourmet cooking classes
- lectures
- music lessons
- art lessons
- sewing instruction
- foreign language course

Special equipment and clothing

Because this booklet just skims the surface of the vast subject of recreation, it cannot provide specific buying information on all the equipment, supplies and clothing needed for recreation purposes. Only recreation vehicles—because they play an increasingly important role in the lifestyles of many—will be covered in some detail. As far as the rental and purchase of other items are concerned, **YOUR RECREATION DOLLAR** will simply set forth some general guidelines.

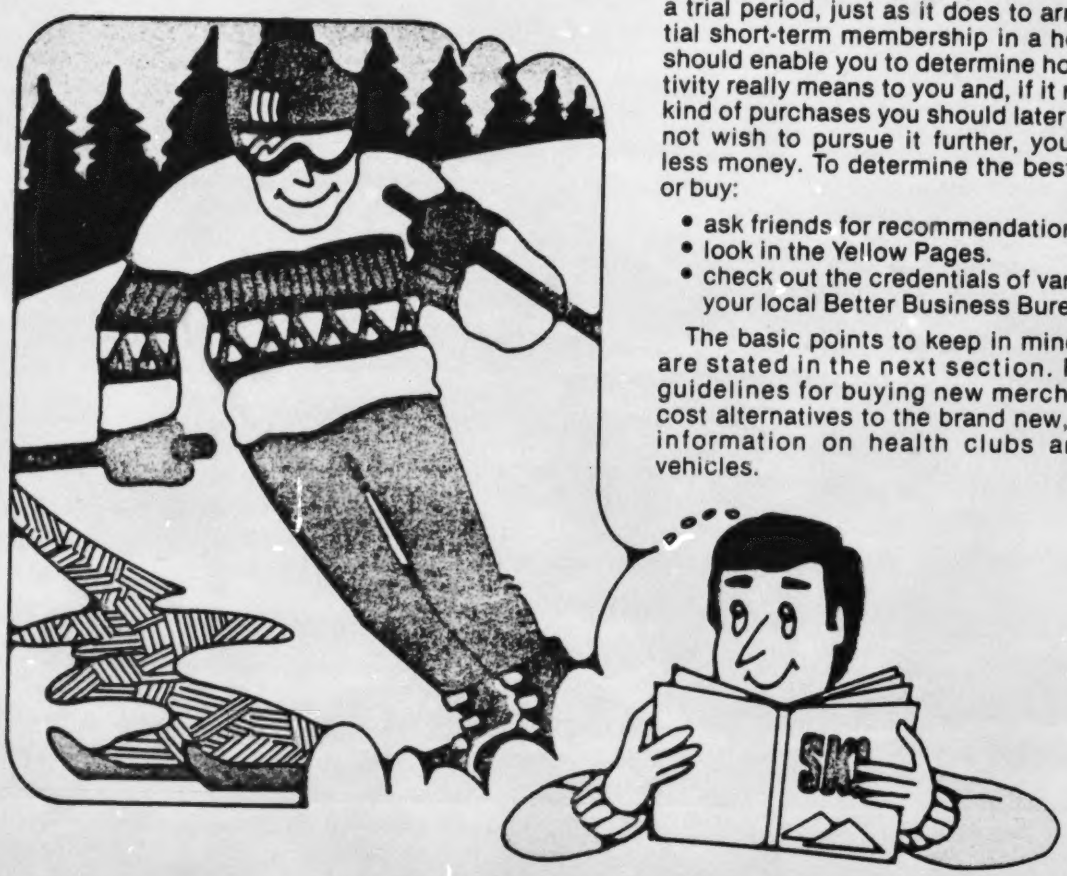
The first one? Find out everything you can about the items you might need before taking steps to rent or buy. For example, which ones are vital and which can you do without? How many different makes and models are available? What are the most important features to look for? Which lines offer the most value for the money? There are several ways to obtain these answers:

- talk to people with knowledge and experience in the area of particular interest to you.
- check out sources of information on various recreation subjects: specialized magazines, books and organizations. You will find some of these listed on pages 38 and 39.
- look up the ratings on items of interest in past issues of consumer rating magazines, available at most libraries.
- purchase an annual consumers' buying guide at your newsstand.
- consult with experienced sales personnel.

The second guideline? Be sure the activity really pleases you and any others concerned before making a large investment in it. Joining a health club, for instance, or buying ski equipment, a boat or camper generally requires a sizable outlay. It makes good sense to either rent or borrow the needed clothing, equipment and/or vehicle for a trial period, just as it does to arrange for an initial short-term membership in a health club. This should enable you to determine how much the activity really means to you and, if it means a lot, the kind of purchases you should later make. If you do not wish to pursue it further, you are out much less money. To determine the best places to rent or buy:

- ask friends for recommendations.
- look in the Yellow Pages.
- check out the credentials of various firms with your local Better Business Bureau.

The basic points to keep in mind when renting are stated in the next section. Following are guidelines for buying new merchandise, lower-cost alternatives to the brand new, and important information on health clubs and recreation vehicles.



Renting equipment

Some items regularly available on a rental basis are touched upon below.

Camping equipment

Camping equipment can often be rented from conventional rental firms as well as from RV dealerships and stores that specialize in selling it. Tents, tarpaulins and backpacks are the most popular rental items, although some stores offer bedding, lanterns, folding chairs and stoves as well. A careful renter would probably prefer a tent of flame-retardant fabric, and would be wise to check out the relative safety of stoves, lanterns, etc., in a consumers' annual buying guide before renting. The rental arrangements are as a rule quite simple, involving a deposit if you reserve equipment ahead of time (a good idea during the camping season), the payment of the rental fee when you pick it up, and the return of the deposit when the equipment is brought back.

Sporting goods

A great variety of sporting goods are manufactured, but only a few are regularly offered on a rental basis: skiing equipment, canoes, ice skates and roller skates, bowling shoes and balls, bicycles, golf clubs and scuba diving equipment.

You can usually rent ski equipment at stores that sell it or at ski resorts. It is especially important that you acquaint yourself with the various kinds of skiing equipment and their advantages and disadvantages before buying OR renting—for safety's sake!

Other rental items listed are generally offered at the places where they are to be used—skating rinks, golf courses, bowling alleys, lake or ocean. Bicycles can sometimes be rented in town from bicycle dealers, or at many popular vacation spots.

Buying new equipment and clothing

Here are a few rules of thumb to follow when buying a recreational item or most anything else:

- decide how much you can comfortably afford to spend.
- consider the uses to which it will be put.
- determine which features you most need—durability . . . efficiency . . . comfort . . . performance . . . safety.

Always keep in mind that the highest priced items are not necessarily the best ones for you. You may be paying extra for a very warm sleeping bag, for example, when a less expensive one would be more comfortable during the months you will be camping. You may pay extra for a tent that can be set up and taken down in a jiffy—an advantage if you will be frequently moving from place to place, but unnecessary if you're staying put. Buy the best hiking shoes you can afford, on the other hand, for they will probably be worth every penny! Foot comfort on a hiking trip is absolutely essential. Nor can the importance of safety features in certain items be overestimated. Do the ski bindings generally considered safest also cost the most? This would surely be money well spent. (Broken bones take a big toll—in more ways than money!)

Inexpensive alternatives

Some of these possibilities have been around for years, others are quite new and you may never have heard of them.

- **Buying second-hand** merchandise from acquaintances, dealers, classified ads, thrift shops, rummage and garage sales.
- **Trading** a camper for a cottage, for instance, for a limited vacation period, or your house for someone else's in a different locale. (See page 23 for details.)
- **Exchanges** are great boons for parents of younger children, whose clothing and shoe sizes change every season, it seems! Ice skates are an especially popular exchange item. Stores that sell them brand new sometimes serve as clearinghouses, buying them back at perhaps one-fourth the original price, then reselling them at a modest markup.

Health club memberships

Certainly it is not necessary to join a health club in order to participate in a physical fitness program. They are also available through YWCAs, YMCAs, adult evening classes and many park or recreation departments, usually at very moderate cost. If your spending plan permits, however, and you would thoroughly enjoy the wide range of facilities and activities that health clubs usually provide, a membership might be worth considering.

If you have several clubs to choose from, check out their credentials with the Better Business Bureau or local Office of Consumer Affairs before making inquiries. Then contact those which pass muster for information on the types of programs offered and their costs. There should be at least one that is suitable for your age, physical condition and pocketbook. Inquire about the qualifications of their instructors—some clubs have attendants only, while others have qualified and experienced exercise consultants. Be skeptical, though, about any far-fetched promises of weight loss! Some clubs may insist upon an examination by a physician before you begin; this would probably be a good idea in any case.

As stated previously, a short-term contract is usually preferable to the long-term—particularly when both the activity and the club are untried. But short term or long, be sure that you carefully read it before signing. What happens if you move before the contract expires? Can you transfer the membership? What if the club ceases operations while your contract has time to run? If you are skeptical or unclear about any part of it, you would do well to postpone the signing until these points are cleared up. If, after all these precautions, some difficulty arises which you are unable to satisfactorily resolve with the health club management, contact your local, state or provincial consumer protection agency for advice.

Large firms that rent a broad range of merchandise sometimes have exercise equipment available. You will find rental agencies listed in the Yellow Pages.

Recreation vehicles

RVs include tent campers, truck campers, travel trailers and motor homes, which vary considerably in cost. These licensed highway vehicles provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping and travel use. They may be rented, purchased new or used, or even created from pickup trucks and used buses by do-it-yourselfers!

Whether you rent or buy

It is a good idea to acquaint yourself with the various types of RVs available before you either rent or buy. They are frequently described, discussed and sometimes even rated in RV magazines and other publications, as well as in specialized books. The RV product line offers a wide range of features and conveniences. To determine which kind of vehicle best fits your needs, carefully inspect the various types on RV dealers' display lots or attend a recreational vehicle show. Remember that it is wise to seek the opinions of experienced RV-ers too.

Important RV features

Here is a brief rundown of some of the most important factors to consider when selecting an RV to rent or buy.

- Do the plumbing, heating and electrical systems conform to the standards set forth by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for recreation vehicles? An RV that meets the standards will probably contain one or more of the following seals: the RVIA Standards Seal, the UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) Listing Mark and/or a state inspection seal where required. The AGA (American Gas Association) label should appear on all gas appliances. Only RVs manufactured by companies that belong to the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association can bear the RVIA Standards Seal. In Canada, recreation vehicles certified for safety will bear the mark of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Some provinces require the CSA mark on all RVs sold.
- Is the insulation adequate? This is especially important if the RV is to be used during cold weather. Most models today have insulation as a standard feature, but it's best to be sure. Water lines should be inside the coach and protected as well.
- How powerful is the car's engine in relation to the size and weight of the vehicle being towed? Your own automobile dealer has factory data on the towing capability of your car. How powerful is the engine of the motor home or truck camper in relation to its size and weight?
- Is the driver's visibility good?
- Overloading is dangerous, so follow the dealer's advice on this.
- What kind of mileage does it get?
- Is service available where you are going?

Selecting a rental agent or dealer

Your very safety—not to mention enjoyment and well-being—depends upon the knowledge, experience and integrity of the dealer or rental agent. No decision you make when renting or buying an RV will be more critical than this. Reputable ones will:

- be concerned about the well-being of those using their vehicles.
- help you select the vehicle most suitable for your needs and pocketbook.
- know what kind of trailer or camper and hitch to match to your car or truck, but will recommend for your protection that you check the factory towing-data at your automobile dealer.
- take the time and effort required to teach you how to operate the equipment.
- rent and sell top-quality vehicles.
- keep the rental vehicles in top operating condition.
- give good predelivery service checks.
- provide an operating instructions manual.
- have parts, accessories and service available. A very good way of checking the dealer's reliability is to ask for the names of two or three customers. Call them to see if they are satisfied on these points.

Renting an RV

Although some of the less expensive models are within the price range of most individuals of average income, the purchase of an RV might be out for a variety of reasons: lack of a down payment . . . prior financial commitments . . . infrequent opportunities to use it . . . lack of storage space . . . the wish to avoid maintenance and insurance costs.

Even those who intend to buy an RV eventually would certainly benefit from the opportunity to try out several different kinds of vehicles first. Recreation vehicles can often be rented from dealers, local rental equipment firms, car rental and leasing companies. A rental directory is published by the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association and can be obtained by writing RVDA (address on page 38), including check or money order.

The charges vary, depending upon the availability, season, geographical location, model, unit size and equipment included. If you wish to rent a vehicle during the most popular vacation months, you should make the arrangements well in advance. Determine at that time if insurance is part of the rental fee, and the kind of coverage it provides. Some dealers who rent are willing to apply the rental fee to the purchase of a vehicle at a later date.

The rental agreement is quite similar to those used in car rentals. A deposit is required. A reputable dealer gives a complete service check after each usage, so there is an implied warranty each time the vehicle is rented anew. This means that it should perform satisfactorily. In the event of unexpected difficulties, however, the renter should stop at the nearest service facility and ask the mechanic to contact the dealer by phone and discuss the problem. After the repairs as authorized by the dealer are made, the bill is either sent to him or her for payment or, if it is $50.00 or less, the renter may pay it, retain the receipt, and be reimbursed by the dealer upon return. This will be the decision of the renting dealer.

Purchasing an RV

There are some factors to consider only when you are buying a recreation vehicle, whether new or used.

- **Storage.** Do you have a place for it? Some communities do not allow parking of RVs on private property, not even your own. Can you find a conveniently located storage place? How much will it cost?
- **Taxes and license.** These vary from one locale to the other. Check with the assessor's office in your area.
- **Maintenance and repair.** Since RVs are almost homes on wheels, they require maintenance and repairs as houses do. Most RV dealerships post their hourly labor costs. Availability of service from the selling dealer is an important consideration, although many RV owners prefer to service their own vehicles.
- **Insurance.** Recreation vehicles have specialized insurance needs, and it may pay to obtain it from a company that specializes in this kind of insurance. Your dealer can undoubtedly advise you on this. In any case, how much will you need to provide adequate property and liability protection? It should apply in every state and Canada. (Insurance for Mexico is sold as you cross the border.) Most homeowners' policies do not cover the RV itself and ordinary automobile insurance may not pay for damage to furnishings and equipment inside the vehicle. Remember that protection should exist year-round, because fire, theft and accidents can occur even during storage. Ask your insurance agent(s) for advice on all these matters. A separate policy may turn out to be best. A word of caution, though—don't simply settle for the lowest priced insurance!
- **Warranties.** In the U.S., as of July 4, 1975, any warranties offered by an RV manufacturer must be stated as either *full* or *limited*. As most of these warranties are limited, ask your dealer what the warranty covers and your responsibilities regarding it.
- **Financing.** Many buyers finance their purchase. This can be arranged by the buyer prior to the sale at such lending institutions as banks, credit unions and consumer finance companies, or the dealer may arrange financing at the time of purchase. Down payments for RVs range from 15% to 20%, depending upon the size, year and condition of the vehicle, with five years to pay for a used RV, ten years for a new one. Do shop for the best rates, and make sure you fully understand the terms of the contract before signing.*

*MANAGING YOUR CREDIT, listed inside the back cover, provides a complete and objective guide to understanding consumer credit and managing credit dollars.

Selecting a new recreation vehicle

There are many different types and models of recreation vehicles available, and the kind you select should of course be governed by your particular needs and wants. Who will be using it? How many people? What are their sizes and ages? Where will you be using it? When will you use it—all year round, during warm months or cold? How much can you afford to spend?

In order to make the wisest selection, write to manufacturers for descriptive literature on the models that most interest you. Look in your area paper for classified ads of RV dealers or check the Yellow Pages. If an RV show is held in your area, it should include a full spectrum of vehicles—from the smallest to the largest. It is a good idea to buy a brand name RV from a reputable dealer, for he or she will be the one you turn to for warranty work and service. A careful investigation is strongly recommended. The dealer can also tell you the size and locations of the dealer network for the brand you buy. This information can be very important to you in your travels.

Here is a word of caution for readers considering the purchase of what seems to be a new vehicle for sale in a campground, motel or gas station. In these situations the price is usually attractive because sickness, death or unemployment is usually the reason for selling. A buyer who purchases a vehicle in this manner can receive warranty service, but usually only at the factory.

Selecting a used recreation vehicle

A number of things to consider when buying a used RV are the same as those to be considered when buying a used car.

- **Appearance.** Does it appear to have been well cared for or abused?
- **The motor.** Drive the vehicle. How does the motor sound and perform? Does it use a lot of oil? It would be wise to have a trusted mechanic check it out.
- **The tires.** Are they worn more on one side than the other? The chassis may be bent, the wheels out of alignment, or the balance poor. Is the spare tire in good condition?
- **Has it been in an accident?** Suspicious signs: damage underneath the vehicle, and sheet metal or fiber glass panels that don't match the rest of the vehicle.

If it is a travel trailer or motor home, you should check many of the things you would investigate when buying a house.

- **Flooring.** If it's worn, the unit has probably had some hard use.
- **Roof.** A droopy ceiling and water stains at seams and corners indicate a leaky roof.
- **Plumbing.** Does it function well? Bulging copper tubing suggests freeze damage to pipe lines.
- **Furnace.** Soot around vents indicates it isn't working well.
- **Appliances.** Do they work? If not, how much money will be required to get them into working condition?
- **Bedding.** Will any of it need to be replaced?

If you have difficulty finding a used recreation vehicle to fit your needs, investigate the possibility of buying a van-camper conversion kit. You will find these listed in the Yellow Pages under "Motor Homes" or "Campers and Pickup Coaches."

Are you looking at tent campers? Check out the canvas. Does it have any mildew in the creases and corners? Do the zippers work? Check the raising mechanism to see how it works. And if this is the first time you've ever used one, bring a knowledgeable, experienced RV-er along with you when you shop.

Any Complaints?

Should future problems concerning the recreation vehicle arise that you are unable to satisfactorily resolve with the dealer, there are some steps you might take. First of all, you might file a complaint with your local Better Business Bureau, most of which have voluntary consumer arbitration programs available. In Canada, contact your local or provincial Better Business Bureau, the Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC) or the provincial Office of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

If the matter is one that more directly concerns the manufacturer, send a brief letter to the director of consumer services, the vice president of marketing or the president, and state the nature of the problem. If you fail to receive satisfaction, consult government personnel: in the U.S., notify city or county consumer protection agency officials, the state attorney general's office or the United States Office of Consumer Affairs; in Canada, contact the provincial Office of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Vacation and travel

Whether you have a three-day weekend or a two-week stretch ahead of you, a vacation can be an invitation to excitement, relaxation, travel, adventure or special activities. After working nonstop, you may want to pack up and go or unwind at home. But any successful vacation takes planning, some knowledge of the alternatives available and the costs involved.

Planning a vacation

Planning a vacation does not mean filling every waking moment with various and sundry activities. It means deciding what you want to do, when you want to do it, and determining how you want to spend the vacation dollars you set aside. Once these decisions have been made, you can begin planning in earnest.

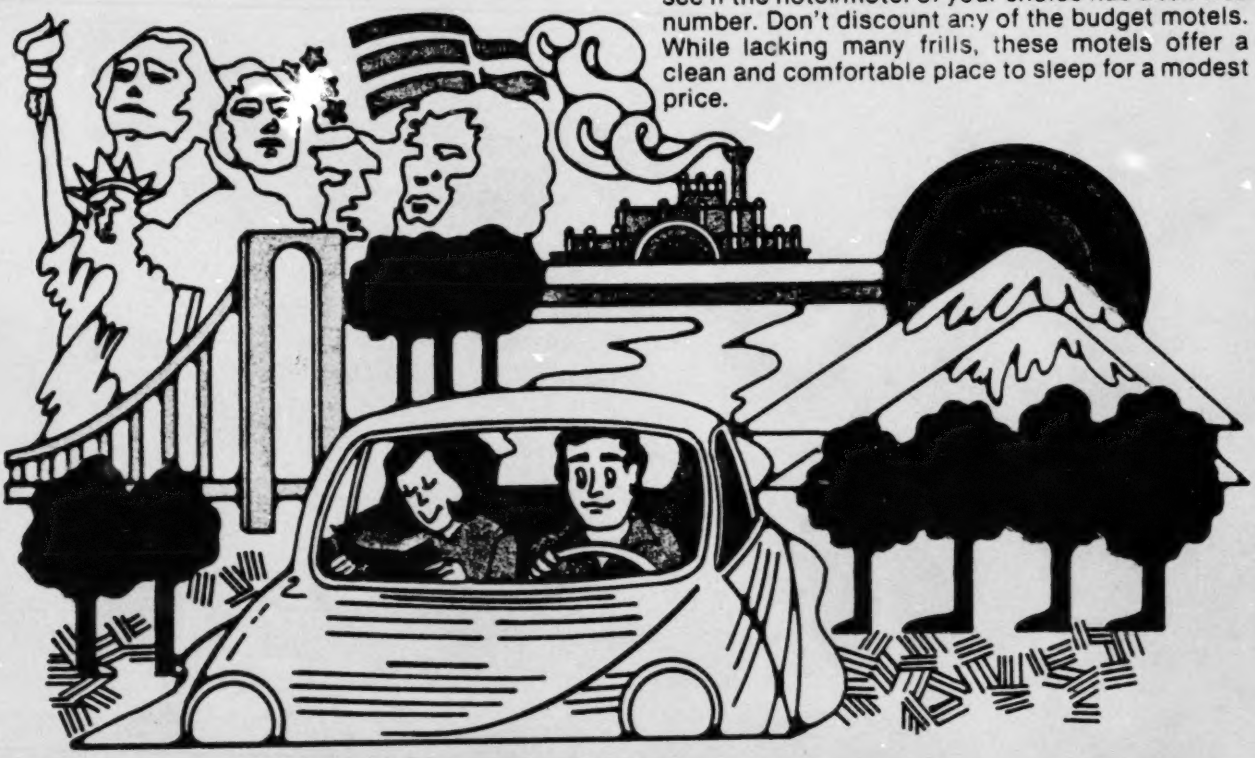
Major plan-ahead decisions revolve around accommodations, transportation and special attractions. Will you make these arrangements yourself, or enlist the aid of a travel agent?

Do-it-yourself vacations

If you spend your vacation visiting friends or relatives, a short phone call or letter confirming your arrival and departure dates and a checkup for the car may be all the planning necessary. On the other hand, if you're going to an area unfamiliar to you, planning will take a bit more effort.

The first step is to *know the territory.* Write to the state or provincial tourist office, the Chamber of Commerce, or for overseas travel, the nearest tourist bureau or national embassy. These offices can give you information on where to stay, what to see and do, how to get there, and what to pack for a comfortable wardrobe. Guidebooks may also be helpful. A trip to your local library or bookstore will probably provide more information on an area than you thought possible.

The next step is to *make accommodation arrangements.* Often hotels and motels are the first places which come to mind when making overnight plans. Most of the major chains can call ahead for you and book a room at any of their member lodges. In the U.S., call (800) 555-1212 to see if the hotel/motel of your choice has a toll-free number. Don't discount any of the budget motels. While lacking many frills, these motels offer a clean and comfortable place to sleep for a modest price.



When making lodging arrangements, check to see if family discounts are offered, special meal plans are available, and if a deposit is needed to confirm your reservation. The following section will discuss other lodging alternatives in some detail.

Make travel arrangements. If you plan to drive, obtain maps and plan your route. Motor clubs often offer this service for members. Allow time to see the sights that interest you along the way and time to rest when you begin to feel tired. If small children will be traveling with you, plan games and quiet activities to keep them occupied. Stop often to exercise young legs and to get the "wiggles" out of their systems—it will make the riding much less taxing on the nerves of all concerned!

If you plan to take a plane, bus, train or ship to reach your destination, make your reservations well in advance. Any cancellations should be made as soon as possible so others can use your space. By being flexible in the time you leave or arrive, you may be able to take advantage of less expensive off-hour or off-season rates. Also ask the reservationist if you qualify for lower student, senior citizen or family rates. You can usually reserve a rental car at the same time you make your travel reservations.

If you plan to take in any special admission events on your vacation, it would be wise to *purchase tickets* before leaving home. Although general admission tickets to museums, amusement parks, etc., are almost always available, entry into a special concert or ball game may be more difficult. If you are planning your vacation around one of these events, be sure you have tickets before making lodging or travel arrangements.

Using a travel agent

In general, the less you travel and the more elaborate your plans, the more you need the services of a professional travel agent—an invaluable source of all kinds of travel information, including tours, carriers and accommodations.

Although we are accustomed to paying for various services, those of a travel agent are usually free of charge. The agent receives commissions from the airlines, steamship lines, railroads, hotels and resorts, tour operators and others. If you ask an agent to design an extensive trip tailored to your individual requirements, however, expect to pay a fee. Inquire in advance about the rate charged for this special service; it is usually a percentage of the value of the package and may vary from one agency to the next. You may also be charged for overseas cables or long-distance calls. By contacting an agent well in advance, these costs can usually be avoided.

A travel agent can provide a variety of services to make your planning easier and your vacation more enjoyable. He or she can:

- schedule your travel arrangements, whether by land, air, sea or any combination thereof.
- reserve hotel or motel accommodations.
- assure that a rental car is available upon arrival, if desired.
- purchase tickets for special events.
- place you in a group tour, which includes hotel, transportation, car rental in some cases, and special features such as sight-seeing activities, theater performances, shows, etc. Usually these packages are designed for two people sharing a room; persons traveling alone will often pay more.
- direct you to places which offer cut rates to families and cater to them.
- inform you of "on," "off," and in-between or "shoulder" seasons in various parts of the world and how it will affect the price of your vacation.
- advise you on what to wear, what kind of weather to expect, good restaurants, tipping customs, etc.
- help you with travel details such as insurance, travelers' checks and foreign currency exchange rates, passports, visas, health and immunization requirements, duty-free items and customs regulations, etc.
- tell you before you go how much your trip will cost and make arrangements for payment, leaving no major surprise in store.

How do you find a travel agent? Ask your friends for recommendations or see if your company uses a travel agent who also handles vacation business.

If you must use the trial-and-error method, an ASTA symbol in the window or in an advertisement may provide a clue to a good agency. This indicates that the agency is a member of the American Society of Travel Agents, has been in business at least three years and meets certain ethical and financial standards. Approximately two-thirds of all U.S. and Canadian agencies belong to ASTA, but there are many good, reputable firms which do not. Other stickers indicate that the agency is appointed to sell tickets for air and ship transportation. These might include ATC (Air Traffic Conference), IATA (International Air Transport Association), TPC (Transpacific Passenger Conference), IPSA (International Passenger Ship Association), PATA (Pacific Area Travel Association), and SATO (South American Travel Organization). If you have any doubts about a potential agency, check with your nearest Better Business Bureau.

Before a travel agent can plan your trip, he will need to know something about you. What do you want to do on your vacation—meet people, pursue a hobby, enjoy various cultural events, visit historical points of interest, dine on gourmet food, learn a new sport, relax and rest? What is your total vacation budget, including souvenirs and personal expenses? When and where do you want to go? With these general guidelines, the agent can consult his many sources and then make realistic suggestions for you to consider. If he begins pressuring you into a higher-priced package than you feel you can afford, firmly remind him of your financial constraints. If the pressure persists, find another travel agent.

Where will you stay?

How much you spend for a vacation depends on several factors—where you go and what you do, how you get there, where you stay and for how long. As you will see from the alternatives below, vacations can be economical and entertaining at the same time. The trick is to explore all the avenues open to you before striking out.

City vacations

How long has it been since you've gone to a museum or visited a foreign country via an ethnic restaurant? Attended the symphony or theater? Enjoyed the wonders of a zoo or the excitement of a race? Been inspired in an art gallery? Many large cities offer these diverse activities and others to entertain you or expand your horizons.

How do you go about planning a city vacation? Write to the Chamber of Commerce or visitors' bureau. Ask specifically for information on local attractions, public transportation, accommodations within your price range and a map of the area. Check with hotel or motel chains to see if they offer a "Getaway Weekend" package, including room, city transportation, certain meals, and perhaps tickets to shows or other attractions. These packages may be particularly suited for families with children—allowing them to sleep without cost in the parents' room and/or eat free or at half price in the hotel dining room. Here's some additional advice for the city vacationer.

- Check the public library when you arrive for a list of local happenings. Although some libraries may not have these, the librarian can probably advise you where they may be found.
- Obtain a copy of the city's magazine or a weekend newspaper. These will list events, make suggestions for good dining and give you a feel for city life.
- Use public transportation whenever and wherever possible. Passengers not only see more sights than drivers do, they need not search for parking spaces or pay for them!
- Consult the park or recreation department to see if free outdoor concerts, plays or other special events are being offered.
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

House swapping

A low-cost lodging alternative that is becoming increasingly popular is house swapping. For little more than the cost of transportation, you can exchange houses with someone from a different part of the country or from overseas.

Several clubs have been established to act as a clearinghouse for house swappers. They publish annual directories which list people interested in exchanging their homes and brief descriptions of them, including the number of beds, baths and special facilities. The cost of entering your name and home in such a directory is nominal; it is slightly higher if you also include a picture. Some clubs also check business and personal references for you, which may increase the cost. Two house-swapping clubs are listed on page 38.

Once you go through the directory, write letters to all who have homes which interest you. House-swappers aren't fussy—carbons or copies of the same letter will do. Once you find someone who is willing to exchange homes with you within the dates you provide, correspondence begins in earnest. This is particularly true if the home is overseas. Determine exactly what will be changing hands and for how long. Will you exchange cars? Will you take care of each other's pets, or should they be boarded for the duration? Give instructions for operating complex equipment. Determine what sheets or dishes are to be used or not used. Will newspaper deliveries continue? The more details worked out beforehand, the better the chances for a pleasant, worry-free exchange.

Check with your insurance agent before the swap. The chances are he will be glad to have someone in the house while you're gone. Likewise, make sure your car insurance covers all drivers if it is included in the exchange.

Once general arrangements are made and you are ready to go, begin making your guests feel welcome.

- Make arrangements with your neighbors to greet your guests and answer any questions they might have.
- Leave emergency numbers by the phone: fire department, police, your family doctor and dentist, a plumber, and your favorite baby sitters.
- Provide a map of the area with grocery stores, shopping centers, dry-cleaning establishments, local parks and good neighborhood restaurants clearly marked.
- Write care and feeding instructions on an index card and place under each plant.
- Lock up anything of monetary or sentimental value to avoid accidental breakage or damage.

Farm or ranch holidays

See a calf born, a chick hatched . . . ride a horse . . . plant a garden . . . fish in a mountain stream or farm pond . . . catch fireflies. These are just a few of the treats in store if you choose a farm or ranch vacation.

The charges for such a vacation are relatively low—between $125 and $150 per week for each adult for room and board, less for children. Accommodations differ with each ranch or farm, as does the meal plan. You might be sleeping in the extra rooms of the family home, in a bunkhouse, a separate lodge or cabin. You may share a bathroom or have one of your own. At least it's inside!

Meals are "home cooked" in the true sense of the word, with fresh vegetables, just-laid eggs and bread hot from the oven. There are several meal plans available: the American Plan (AP) includes three meals a day; the Modified American Plan (MAP) includes two (usually breakfast and dinner); and the European Plan (EP) does not include meals. Of course your cost per week will reflect the number of meals offered.

If the idea of a farm or ranch holiday appeals to you, obtain a copy of FARM, RANCH & COUNTRY VACATIONS (USA), listed on page 39, which describes several hundred such vacation spots. Travel guides published by the provincial offices of tourism also list farms open for vacationers. After selecting one that interests you, contact the host for a brochure or additional information. You might tell him or her a bit about yourself, your family and any special interests. They will be as eager to learn about their prospective house-guests as you are about a vacation on their acreage.

After you both agree on dates, a deposit is usually required to confirm your reservation. Since each host operates a bit differently, clarify in advance what the deposit will be and the policy on refunds if you should cancel.

Exploring the country

If the idea of exploring an area in depth intrigues you, there are several low-cost ways to go about it.

Tourist homes. While they may take a bit of sleuthing to find, tourist homes—or guesthouses—rank high on the list of inexpensive accommodations. Generally confined to private residences, tourist homes are more likely to be found in small towns and medium-sized cities than in metropolitan areas.

A sign out front may be the only clue you have that lodging is offered, although the local Chamber of Commerce might have a listing to consult. Prices vary according to locality; in some homes a continental breakfast may be included. Try to make reservations, especially during busier vacation months. If this is impossible, arrive early—the owners want their sleep too!

Hostels. Hosteling has been an inexpensive way for students to travel for years, but more and more families are getting into the act. For only several dollars a night per person, hostels provide a clean, warm and friendly place to rest while traversing the countryside—here and abroad.

To stay in a hostel, you must become a member of American Youth Hostels, Inc., or the Canadian Hosteling Association (addresses listed on page 38). Your membership card is valid in the 46 countries which have hostels under the jurisdiction of the International Youth Hostel Federation. Both individual and family memberships are available at a nominal charge. Members receive a handbook containing information on hosteling and a list of all hostels in the U.S. or Canada.

Hostels provide simple facilities, including bunks, blankets, pillows, a kitchen and its equipment. You will need a "sleep sheet"—a sleeping bag made out of a sheet with a flap at the head to cover your pillow; sleeping bags are not permitted. Usually men and women sleep in separate dormitories, but some hostels have family units. You buy and cook your own food and share cleaning chores with other hostelers. A houseparent is usually on hand to see that everything runs smoothly.

It is a good idea to make reservations if you are traveling in the peak vacation months. Try to arrive early in the evening, as most hostels lock their doors between certain hours. Since they are intended for the traveler, there is a time limit of three days per hostel; however, if it is not crowded and you ask for an extension, you will most likely receive one.

One of the joys of hosteling is that you can see your own country and others at your own pace and under your own steam. There are also low-cost American Youth Hostels group tours of seven to nine individuals who, with a trained adult leader, travel on preplanned itineraries. They stay in hostels, Ys, schools, or camp out. Departing from a number of cities and towns, the trips vary from 14-45 days. Transportation may be by bike, backpacking, canoeing, or in certain cases, by public transportation. Contact AYH for trip details and age requirements.

Camping. More people are "getting back to nature"—and are enjoying a low-cost vacation while doing it. Camping is probably the least expensive way to go, for unless you get a top-of-the-line RV, the majority of your outlay for equipment can pay for itself within the first several years. Although camping equipment and recreation vehicles have been discussed in the previous section, there is still the question of where to go. This is no small consideration, for campgrounds are becoming more crowded as increasing numbers join the camping ranks.

Campgrounds are found in national, state and provincial parks and forests as well as in areas operated by county, municipal and other levels of government. These areas offer a wide variety of facilities, ranging from well-developed campgrounds with hookups for sewage, water and electricity to primitive sites with or without water. Find out in advance what facilities are available in the area you plan to visit. A CATALOG OF GUIDES TO OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES and other pamphlets listed on page 39 should prove helpful in this endeavor.

In the U.S. National Park System, you may be charged an entrance fee and a recreational-use fee. Single-visit entrance fees range from $1-$3 per passenger vehicle, and are valid as long as you remain in the park. Or you may purchase an annual entrance permit—the Golden Eagle Passport—which gives you free entrance to all areas of the National Park System. The cost is $10. Those 62 years of age or older qualify for a free lifetime entrance permit—the Golden Age Passport. Those using campsites are charged a recreational use fee at campgrounds having minimum services and facilities. Rates are comparable to private campgrounds in the area. (Those holding a Golden Age Passport receive a 50% discount.) Contact the park superintendent to see if reservations can be made or whether sites are on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the National Park System, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation operate a large number of campgrounds in scenic areas. For more information, contact the nearest offices, listed in your local phone book.

Numerous campgrounds are run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Descriptions of these lesser-known and less crowded vacation spots are given in NATIONAL FOREST VACATIONS listed on page 39. For information on state parks and forests, contact the department of natural resources within each state.

Each Canadian province has established Provincial Parks, which operate in a similar fashion. In all Provincial Parks you will need a permit to camp, covering your entrance to the park and the use of all facilities. The fee varies from one province to the next. Most campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis; however, some require reservations. For detailed information, write the Department of Tourism in the provinces which interest you.

The number of commercial campgrounds is increasing as interest in camping grows. Campground and trailer guides are a useful tool for locating one that will meet your needs in the area you choose. Two of these guides, listed on page 39, may be found in the public library or bookstores. In Canada, commercial campgrounds are licensed and inspected by officers of the provincial government or by municipal authorities. Fees vary according to geographic location, but average $6 a night. Utility hookups will run slightly higher. It is wise to make reservations, particularly if you will be traveling in the busy months of July and August.

University vacations

College and university campuses are becoming increasingly popular vacation spots. These institutions offer noncredit courses to vacationers on topics as diverse as comparative literature and loom weaving. The emphasis is on learning for its own sake and developing your own special interests and talents. Classes are informal, small and stimulating, as people from various walks of life discuss the topic at hand.

Complementing the educational side of campus life are the other facilities available: tennis courts, a pool, the gym, horseback riding, canoeing, a golf course—these are just a few possibilities that await you on some campuses. Vacated dormitories provide your lodging. Prices vary, but $6 per adult a day is not unusual. Meals can often be taken in the school cafeteria when regular summer sessions are being held.

MORT'S GUIDE TO LOW-COST VACATIONS & LODGINGS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES—USA & CANADA lists a number of campuses and facilities open to the summer vacationer. Write the college of your choice for details on courses offered, up-to-date prices and what they include, and facilities for children, if needed. Some campuses do not allow children under a certain age, while others have day care centers or a planned recreation program for the younger set.

How will you go?

You have decided where you will go on vacation and what you would like to do. How do you plan to get there? In some cases the answer is obvious; in others, the decision is not so simple. By analyzing the costs involved—of both time and money—you will be able to find the mode that will best meet your transportation needs. The following suggestions are only the beginning, for you can combine these alternatives to suit your own plans and pocketbook.

Traveling by automobile

Taking off in your own auto may be the most logical transportation choice. When you are not going too far from home or have plenty of time, driving can be a pleasant way to see the countryside.

Make sure your car is in top-notch condition before you leave home. Check the fan belt, battery, ignition and other electrical systems, tire tread, radiator and hoses, spark plugs and brake fluid. By taking care of small problems at home, you reduce your chances of having larger ones on the road and being at the mercy of the nearest garage. If you think a mechanical problem is developing while traveling, start looking for a reputable service area at once. If you are a member of a motor club, they can steer you to a reliable mechanic; they will also tow you there if the car has completely collapsed. If you carry a towing provision on your auto insurance policy, obtain a receipt for towing charges so you can be reimbursed.

Understand fully what is wrong and what the costs will be before repairs begin. Having given the car a recent checkup, you should know whether the analysis of the problem and cost estimate is reasonable. (A broken fan belt is one thing; a complete engine overhaul is something else!) Stay close by when the work is being done. While most mechanics are honest, it may pay you well to be skeptical when in strange environments.

Check your insurance coverage before leaving home. If you will be driving in Mexico, you may be required to purchase special automobile insurance at the border. Additional insurance is not needed when traveling in the U.S. or Canada.

Going by RV

The particulars of renting and purchasing a recreation vehicle and suggestions on where to camp have been given in the preceding sections. Below are a few additional suggestions that can be made to make your trip more enjoyable.

- Plan your route carefully. RVs with containers of compressed gas are not allowed through some tunnels. Some bridges and parkways prohibit all trailers. A good map should list any restrictions.
- Become familiar with the mechanical workings of your RV—both the engine and appliances. Because of their complexity, many things can go wrong—some of which you can easily learn to repair yourself.
- Allow sufficient funds for gas. Many RVs get only 8 to 12 miles per gallon, although mileage depends upon the type of RV you're driving. Some new units get substantially better mileage than this.
- If you are short on time and have the funds, consider flying to your destination, then renting an RV to see the countryside while there. Several national agencies can arrange such long-distance rentals.
- The uses of an RV are many and varied. There are some 10,000 campgrounds in the United States, including state and national parks, and most major points of interest have an adjacent campground. For additional information, check the directories that are available in most dealerships and many bookstores. Campground reservations, which will assure you of a camping spot in even the busiest seasons, have only recently come into their own.

Pedaling your way

Do you want a leisurely trip, one where you can stop and explore? Would you like to feel the wind blow through your hair, feel your skin tingle, and perhaps in the bargain lose a few unwanted pounds? If so, biking may be the way for you to go. Whether you're taking a long vacation or a weekend tour, the tips below can get you started on the road to adventure.

Get a bike that is the correct size, is well constructed, has a comfortable seat, good brakes and safety lights. Three-, five-, or ten-speed bikes are recommended for touring, depending on the terrain you plan to cover. Consult one of the numerous books and articles which give information on buying a bicycle.

When purchasing your bike, also get a good casehardened lock and chain. While chains are not theftproof, the larger ones will definitely discourage would-be thieves. (Unfortunately, the chain's weight must also be considered on long cycling trips.) There are also small alarms on the market that give a telltale screech when the chain is being cut. When securing your bike, chain the back wheel and body to something immovable—a tree, telephone pole, bike rack, etc. The best defense against theft? Take the bike with you inside if possible, keep it in sight or in well-traveled areas at all times.

You can spend a small fortune on accessories. Resist! The only equipment that is considered essential, other than your lock and chain, is a horn (loud), pant clips (so you won't get them tangled in the gears), and a French armband—a plastic light that shines white in front, red in back. (Strap it below your left *knee*—it's much easier for drivers to see the bobbing light.) Other accessories can be purchased if and when they are needed.

Bikes are one of the most easily maintained vehicles. Your owner's manual or a good bike guide will show you how to fix anything that might go wrong; if you will be riding in the wilds, it is essential that you know how to do your own repairs. These guides will also recommend tools and materials to take with you.

Remember that wherever you ride, you are considered a fast vehicle, not a slow pedestrian. Follow the same rules of the road as you do when driving. Do everything possible to make yourself visible to motorists—keep the bike's light and reflectors clean and in good working order, wear iridescent clothing, put reflecting strips on the pedal edges, frame and fenders, etc. When traveling in a group, ride single file. If you're planning to bike in the city, travel side roads whenever possible. Remember that bikes are prohibited on limited access highways.

Before striking out, plan your route and get yourself in shape physically. American Youth Hostels, Inc., suggests taking a month to work up to a 50-mile-a-day trip with a full backpack! Books such as AYH NORTH AMERICAN BIKE ATLAS and THE AMERICAN BIKING ATLAS AND TOURING GUIDE indicate routes, sights to see, places to stay, the varying degrees of difficulty and other information on numerous bike tours throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Will your trip begin at the front door or do you need to travel some distance to the starting point? If the latter is the case and you will be using public carriers, check ahead to see what arrangements should be made. Most buses and airlines require that you carton the bike, which usually involves removing the handlebars, pedals, seat, and perhaps the front wheel. If traveling by car, a bike rack designed to fit on the top, bumper or trunk of your car will save you the trouble of dismantling the cycle. Check to see what kinds are suitable for your automobile.

Bus travel

For low-cost, energy-saving, hassle-free travel, leave everything to a friendly bus driver. Buses are quieter and more comfortable than ever before—thanks to space-age technology. Some deluxe ones even have attendant service, a galley, lounge areas and taped music!

Unless you plan to take a deluxe bus, reservations are not needed. Just arrive at the ticket counter, pay your fare (in cash), and board. Arrive early, for there are no reserved seats. The smoking section is confined to the rear 20% of the bus. You are allowed to check two bags. Watch while the baggage is being loaded to make sure yours is included—there is no guarantee that it will be on the same bus.

If you can, plan your travel in short stints. Spend more than 400 miles (about 10 hours) on the road, and you begin to battle fatigue and late night arrivals. Buses stop every three hours on the average for either meals or rest stops. Although buses travel at highway speeds, these frequent stops do not make it a particularly fast means of transportation. You should also allow funds for meals on the road, adding this figure to your total cost for bus travel.

If you plan to see the country by bus, some of the best bargains are the special 30- or 60-day passes offered by the major bus lines. These passes allow you to go anywhere in the U.S. or Canada for a flat rate. You can vary your route, travel whenever you wish within the prescribed time limits, and take advantage of special discounts offered by most issuing lines. You can switch lines if your issuing carrier does not have a route you wish to take, as most of the 1330 bus lines honor these passes. Since some do not, it is wise to check with the ticket agent before departure, to avoid paying extra on a nonparticipating carrier.

If you would enjoy a bus package tour, whether escorted or individual, contact an authorized travel agent or the bus line for charter travel arrangements.

Riding the rails

Although differences still exist in the number and kinds of amenities offered on various routes, train travel is much improved over that of yesteryear. Many people wouldn't travel any other way: those who dislike flying, businessmen who like to arrive and depart from downtown areas, anyone who really wants to see the country in a leisurely, relatively carefree way.

Nearly all passenger trains in the U.S. are owned and operated by Amtrak, except commuter lines. It is much easier to obtain train-travel information and reservations today, thanks to Amtrak's nationwide, computerized information/reservation system. Either ask an Amtrak-appointed travel agent, check at the nearest passenger station, or call Amtrak's toll-free information number. To obtain the number for your area, dial (800) 555-1212.

All intercity rail-passenger services in Canada are operated by VIA Rail Canada. VIA's computerized reservations system enables the traveler to make reservations for rail travel anywhere in Canada all at the same time. Prospective travelers should make arrangements through the nearest passenger sales office. Reservations may also be made through VIA-appointed travel agents, as in the U.S.

Fares? They usually fall somewhere between those charged for bus and air travel, although they do vary, depending on the amenities you request. Amtrak offers slumbercoaches, roomettes and bedrooms, in addition to regular coaches. In addition, the new superliner equipment consists of economy bedrooms, deluxe bedrooms and family-sized bedrooms.

VIA levies a basic transportation charge for coach travel; sleeping accommodations are extra. Reservations are a necessity if you want a sleeping compartment on any train, and you would do well to obtain them at least a month in advance. Reservations are also required for coaches on most long-distance hauls. U.S. residents can make reservations and buy tickets for travel on VIA through Amtrak.

Amtrak offers a variety of money-saving arrangements, including family and group plans, and package tours as well. For information on the latter, see an Amtrak travel agent or write Amtrak Tours (see page 38). VIA has many money-saving arrangements, including special one-day and seven-day round-trip excursion fares, advance purchase excursion fares (APEX), and reduced fares for senior citizens. The nearest passenger sales office will supply details. Whatever railroad you select, be sure to include the cost of meals in your estimated travel expenses.

Cruising along

For those who enjoy gourmet foods, lavish entertainment, exotic ports-of-call, sun and surf, a vacation cruise is the way to go. The complete change of scenery and leisurely pace will do wonders for body and soul!

To arrange a cruise, you must go through a travel agent. He or she will reserve a spot for you on a ship which has met the international Safety of Life at Sea regulations. (All ships docking in the U.S. or Canada must comply before passengers may embark.) They will also advise you of attire on board, proof of citizenship needed, medical services available, insurance responsibilities, tipping guidelines, customs, baggage allowances, and choice of dining room reservations for your stay on board.

The price you pay for your cruise depends on the accommodations you choose. Generally, the higher the deck, the higher the fare. Outside rooms are more expensive than inside ones. The price includes all meals while on board. Gratuities are an extra expense. Ask if port taxes are included in the price quoted—sometimes they are, sometimes not.

The ship will stop at several ports-of-call along the way, giving you a chance to shop and explore new surroundings. If you have most of the day, try venturing past Main Street to places more representative of the area. Besides broadening your mind, it will also give you a chance to get your land legs back!

Bon Voyage!

Taking to the air

If you do not want to spend valuable vacation time traveling, the fastest way to get to your destination is to fly. You can easily make the arrangements yourself by calling an airline's reservationist, or your travel agent can arrange your flight.

The price you or your family pays for getting from point A to point B varies considerably, depending on the time and day of travel, the ages of family members, whether you ride first class or coach, how long you stay (excursion fares), and even what ground arrangements you make (package tours or charter flights). When you call the reservationist be sure to ask if the price quoted is the least expensive fare available. Also determine what meals or snacks are served, if any. Your travel agent will also have this information.

You are allowed to check two pieces of baggage on most domestic flights. An additional piece can be carried on board if it will fit under the seat. You are required to have your name and address attached to each piece before checking them. The airlines suggest that you also include this information inside the bag in case the outside tag is removed. Lock your luggage to prevent its coming open accidentally. Keep all baggage check stubs handy, as you will need to surrender them when you claim your bags.

Notify airline personnel immediately if your bags do not show up with the other passengers' luggage. They might have been left on board, in which case someone can check the baggage hold before the plane takes off again. If indeed your baggage does seem to have been misplaced, report it as missing before leaving the airport. You will be asked to describe your bags, their content and total value. If not found within three days, you will be sent claim forms; complete and return them as soon as possible to expedite matters. Ask what provisions the airline has for reimbursing passengers who must purchase certain personal necessities in the meantime.

Before boarding the plane, you and any carryon cases will go through a brief security check. This involves walking through a gate that will emit a signal when metal is detected. If the signal goes off as you walk through, you will be asked to repeat the procedure, or will be scanned with a small hand-held detector. Since heavy belt buckles or keys sometimes set off the alarm, being asked to submit to a quick check should not concern you. In most large airports your hand luggage will pass through an X-ray type scanner, while in smaller ones, it will be hand searched. Remember that these procedures are for your protection. While you can refuse the security check, the airlines can deny your boarding.

If you hold a confirmed reservation on a commercial carrier and find that you have been "bumped" from a flight due to overbooking, you may be eligible for denied boarding compensation. Ask for a written statement explaining the terms of this compensation to see if you qualify. If you are bumped, don't leave the check-in area; airline personnel will do everything possible to get you to your destination. To avoid this problem, allow ample time to get to the airport, check in and walk to the gate.

Package tours often offer the greatest bargains. Although there are escorted group tours available, many leave you to your own pursuits upon reaching your destination. These tours may be excursion packages arranged by the airlines or charter flights. Since there are numerous kinds of charter flights available, each subject to different regulations, contact your travel agent or a reputable chartering organization for details. The cost for air and ground arrangements is usually much less than if they are made separately, and often includes tickets to special attractions or discounts on various items.

Before signing up for a tour, ask a few pointed questions.

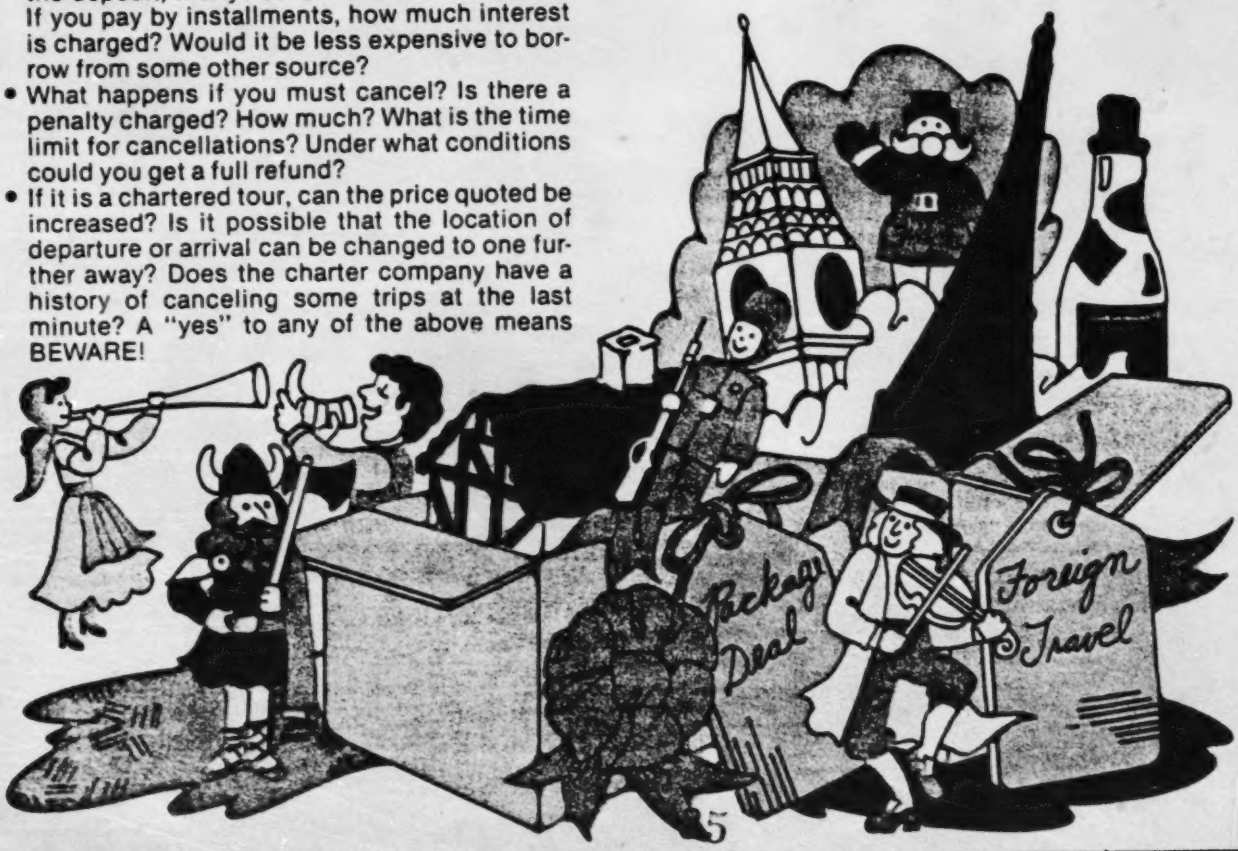
- What is the total cost, including taxes, for transportation and the accommodations you want?
- What is included in the price? What meals, if any? Tips? Transportation to and from the airport? Tour buses and guides? Special admissions? Rental car and gas?
- Where will you be staying? Is the hotel named? Is it conveniently located or will transportation be a problem? Is the price stated for double occupancy? Will you be charged extra if you travel alone? Does the room have a bath? Are linens included?
- If going on a guided tour, how much free time will you have to explore on your own? How much traveling will be done each day? Who will be traveling with you? How many?
- How far in advance must you sign up?
- When will you pay for the tour? How much is the deposit, if any? When is the balance due? If you pay by installments, how much interest is charged? Would it be less expensive to borrow from some other source?
- What happens if you must cancel? Is there a penalty charged? How much? What is the time limit for cancellations? Under what conditions could you get a full refund?
- If it is a chartered tour, can the price quoted be increased? Is it possible that the location of departure or arrival can be changed to one further away? Does the charter company have a history of canceling some trips at the last minute? A "yes" to any of the above means BEWARE!

If you have problems when flying that the airline company cannot resolve, write either the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board or the Canadian Transport Commission. Addresses are on page 38.

Foreign travel

Unless you will be traveling with a prearranged, prepackaged group tour (with a school class or church choir, for instance), the first step of your foreign journey should be toward your travel agent. He or she is in the best position to help you plan your trip, particularly if you want a tour for your first visit abroad. Guidelines for choosing a travel agent and a list of their services were given previously.

If you decide to arrange your flight with a travel agent, but want to see more of the countryside than accommodation packages will allow, there are several steps you might take. A number of excellent guidebooks are available which give the names, addresses, phone numbers and recommen-



dations for hotels, restaurants, shops and attractions in a number of countries. If you write and make your own reservations, indicate the day of arrival and departure, specifying what you want in the room (kind of bed, with or without bath or shower, etc.). Take all confirmation letters with you. If possible, confirm your return passage upon arrival.

For the more adventurous, reservations can be made once you reach your destination. Most railway stations and some airports in Europe have tourist bureaus on the premises with English-speaking staffs. Often listing the smaller, less expensive hotels and local guesthouses, they will help you find a suitable place to stay at the price you can afford.

If you are heading for Europe, your best travel bargain may be the *Youthpass* or *Eurailpass*. The *Youthpass*, available to travelers under 26 years of age, offers two months of unlimited second-class travel in 16 countries. The *Eurailpass* is good for unlimited first-class travel and can be purchased for time limits ranging from 15 days to three months. Children under 12 pay half fare; those under four travel free. Present your ticket for validation at any European railway ticket counter, then board your train. In peak vacation seasons, it is wise to make advance reservations, or be at the station at least an hour before the scheduled departure.

NOTE: The *Youthpass* and *Eurailpass* must be purchased before you leave; they are not sold in Europe. You will need a valid passport before you can apply for either one. They are available through travel agents; through French National Railroad offices (in Chicago, Illinois; Coral Gables, Florida; Beverly Hills and San Francisco, California), or write to the French National Railroad, 610 Fifth Avenue, Room 516, New York, New York 10020.

Foreign countries mean foreign currency, but the use of the unfamiliar monies need not be as intimidating as you think. The first step is to become familiar with the coins, denominations and relative worth of each for the countries you plan to visit. Your guidebook will be an excellent resource. Next estimate how much local currency you will need. Try not to overestimate, for to change currency back (to dollars, for example) could cost you, depending on the rate of exchange. The best place to convert money is in a local bank; they are up to the minute on the exchange rate. Also reliable are the exchanges at airports, train stations and border crossings. The least favorable rate is found in hotels, restaurants and shops. An inexpensive tool that will prove most helpful is a money converter. Set it for a price in pounds (francs, marks or lira, etc.), and it will indicate the price in dollars. You may find them in travel shops, stationery shops or bookstores.

If you are traveling across U.S.-Canadian or U.S.-Mexican borders, the only identification you will need is proof of citizenship (i.e., birth or baptismal certificate, naturalization certificate). However, if you go farther afield, a valid *passport* is required. For details on how to apply for your passport, contact your travel agent or the nearest regional passport office. In Canada, consular offices also handle passport requests, while in the U.S., some Clerks of Court and post offices do. Federal passport headquarters are listed on page 38. Apply two months in advance, if possible. While abroad, keep your passport with you at all times. If your hotel needs it when you register (a not unusual request), don't forget to pick it up before leaving!

Some countries require a *visa* for visiting aliens. It is up to you to obtain visas for the countries you are visiting by contacting their national embassies before you leave. Your travel agent can tell you if one is required in the areas you will be traveling.

One of the pleasures of going abroad is bringing souvenirs home with you as a tangible memory of your trip. But if the value of your presents and souvenirs exceeds the allowable sum, you must pay *customs* duty on the difference. There are also various articles which are not allowed to pass customs at all, as they pose a threat to our poultry, livestock or agricultural industries. CUSTOMS HINTS FOR RETURNING UNITED STATES RESIDENTS: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO, published by the U.S. Customs Service, and I DECLARE, from Customs and Excise in Canada, give details on customs regulations. Addresses are on page 38. For up-to-the-minute information, check with customs officials at your point of departure. If you will be taking valuable foreign-made items bearing serial numbers (cameras, watches, etc.), register them with customs before leaving to avoid paying duty on them upon return.

Ask your travel agent, local or state health department in the U.S., or the Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare in Canada about *vaccination and immunization* requirements in the countries you plan to visit. Have the required shots well in advance of your departure. Upon returning to the U.S. or Canada, you must be able to present a valid International Certificate of Vaccination against smallpox. Forms may be obtained from the agencies listed above. This requirement is usually waived unless in the preceding 14 days you visit a country reporting smallpox.

If you take medicines containing habit-forming drugs, obtain a note from your physician stating that they are being taken under a doctor's direction and are necessary for your well-being. You might want your doctor to prescribe medicine to take in case of stomach upset due to the change in food, water or daily routine. It is also wise to carry an extra pair of glasses and their prescription.

A few additional hints may make your journey more pleasurable.

- Although most of the larger restaurants and hotels have English-speaking staffs, you can't expect to find this everywhere. Obtain a book listing foreign foods, what they are and how to pronounce them. That way you'll know what you are ordering *before* it gets to the table! Also, find out what meals are included, if any, in your hotel reservation. You could lose many dollars by paying for meals twice.
- Tips and gratuities are usually included on your restaurant tab. Who else should be tipped and how much? Consult your guidebook.
- If you plan to take an electric hair dryer, razor, travel iron, etc., make sure it is adaptable for 220-volt current. (The U.S. and Canada run on 110-volts.) Consult your travel agent concerning the kind of adapter to purchase for the countries you will visit. Do not depend on your hotel to have extra ones.
- You are restricted to two average-size pieces of luggage on international flights if you travel coach. The luggage limits vary when you travel first class, so check this out with the airlines or your travel agent before planning your vacation wardrobe. Pack lightly, however, so you can bring souvenirs back, and take no more luggage than you can carry yourself.
- Pack comfortable shoes and easy-care clothing—you don't want to spend valuable vacation time washing and ironing on sore feet! Guidebooks or your travel agent can make suggestions on what to take, based on the time of year you will be traveling.
- Put a flat, sturdy carryall in the bottom of your suitcase for carrying your treasures home. Keeping foreign purchases and their sales slips together in one spot will help speed you through customs.

If you find yourself in difficulty or distress, do not hesitate to contact the nearest U.S. or Canadian consulate. (If a Canadian one is not located nearby, Canadian citizens may contact the British consulate.) They are the first to consult if your passport is lost or stolen, in case of natural disaster or civil unrest. They will help you contact family or friends at home should you become destitute or seriously ill. They can provide a list of attorneys if you need one, but cannot offer legal advice themselves. Nor can they perform the functions of your travel agent, information bureau, bank, post office or police. If you are detained by the latter, you should ask to communicate with your consulate at once. They will do whatever possible to protect your interests and to ensure you receive fair treatment according to local law.

Paying for the good times

How you pay for your vacation will depend not only upon personal preference, but also upon the amount of money you have available at various times.

Pay now -- go later

You may choose to save the money for your vacation—perhaps in a special account. By planning ahead and making regular deposits, you will acquire that vacation nest egg before you know it. Help yourself along by shopping around for the best interest rates, though.

Some package tours must be prepaid. Make sure that you know the total amount required as well as the payment schedule that you must meet. See the discussion in the previous section.

Pay-as-you-go

If this is your preferred method, you would be wise to convert your cash to travelers' checks before leaving town. Their big advantage? You will be reimbursed if the checks should be lost or stolen. Another advantage is that they can be readily cashed most anywhere you go. The cost is nominal, whether you pay a flat rate or a percentage of the face value of the checks. Some lending institutions even provide them free of charge to their customers. When they are issued you must sign each check in the presence of the issuing agent. As each one is cashed, you must sign it again under the eye of the individual cashing it to facilitate comparison of the two signatures. You will be given a record of all the checks you receive; keep this in a separate location to reduce the likelihood of its being stolen or lost. You will then be able to report the serial numbers of any missing checks to the nearest agency office. A word of caution: take more travelers' checks than you think you will need. You can always use the others in lieu of cash when you get home.

Go now -- pay later

This can be done either through the use of credit cards or a consumer loan. In either case, you would do well to avoid a very long payment schedule—not only because of the interest rates charged, but also because one's motivation to pay for good times of yesterday tends to quickly diminish.

Consumer loans can be obtained from credit unions, banks and consumer finance companies. Shop around for the most satisfactory rates. Credit cards are undeniably a convenience, but keep in mind that you must pay the charges when you return.

Before leaving home

No matter how well planned the vacation, there are always last minute details to be handled before you leave. Some have been mentioned in the previous sections; others are noted here for the first time. The following checklist will serve as a reminder of things to be done before you lock the door and are off on your long-awaited holiday.

"MANAGING YOUR CREDIT, listed inside the back cover, provides a complete and objective guide to understanding consumer credit and managing credit dollars.

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Remember . . .

- ____ Have car or recreation vehicle properly serviced
  - ____ Check jack
  - ____ Pack flares, flashlight, first aid kit, litter bag, duplicate keys, booster cables, insurance information and car registration
  - ____ Check tire inflation, once loaded
  - ____ Prepare the car for towing, if necessary
- ____ Check insurance coverage
  - ____ Homeowner's
  - ____ Automobile
  - ____ Recreation Vehicle
  - ____ Boat
  - ____ Accident and Health
- ____ Make sure all camping equipment is in good working order
  - ____ Pack cooking utensils, dinnerware, sleeping bags, towels, etc.
  - ____ Plan menus
  - ____ Do food shopping and preliminary preparation
- ____ Give bicycle a thorough checkup
  - ____ Obtain recommended tools and parts
- ____ Obtain special documents and put in a safe place
  - ____ Membership card(s) for American Youth Hostels, Inc., or Canadian Hosteling Association, if hosteling
  - ____ International Driver's License
  - ____ Passport (with extra photos)
  - ____ Visa
  - ____ International Certificate of Vaccination
  - ____ Youthpass or Eurailpass
- ____ Make a sleep sheet, if hosteling
- ____ Purchase money converter and adapters, if traveling abroad
- ____ Obtain travelers' checks
- ____ Check camera and attachments; purchase:
  - ____ Film
  - ____ Batteries
  - ____ Flashbulbs
- ____ Alert post office to hold all mail or have neighbor save it for you
- ____ Stop paper delivery
- ____ Arrange for pet, plant and lawn care
- ____ Pay any bills due before your return
- ____ Let someone know of your itinerary, your car (and trailer, if towing) license numbers, and the best ways to contact you in case of emergency
- ____ Notify police and a close neighbor of your vacation and ask that they check on the house in your absence
- ____ Pack, in addition to clothing:
  - ____ Sufficient medication and prescriptions
  - ____ Extra pair of glasses and prescription
  - ____ Sunglasses
  - ____ Snacks for car travel
  - ____ Toys, games and other amusements for youngsters
  - ____ Food for the ice chest
  - ____ Maps, travel guides
  - ____ Reservation confirmation slips
- ____ Secure your house or apartment
  - ____ Unplug major electrical appliances
  - ____ Turn thermostat down or air conditioners off
  - ____ Turn down the thermostat to the water heater
  - ____ Set an automatic timer to switch lights on and off at specified times, making your home appear occupied
  - ____ Lock all doors and windows

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Suggested Resources

Organizations

There is a wealth of additional information available to individuals on numerous recreation-related subjects. The following organizations and government offices offer materials that the editors consider highly useful, and can be obtained at little or no cost.

United States

American Society of Travel Agents, Inc.
711 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10022

American Youth Hostels, Inc.
National Administrative Offices
1332 "I" Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005

Amtrak Tours Department
P.O. Box 311
850 West Fullerton Avenue
Addison, Illinois 60101

Civil Aeronautics Board
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20428

Committee on Recreation and Leisure
The President's Committee on
Employment of the Handicapped
1111 Twentieth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Handicapped Travelers Association, Inc.
1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard, Suite 125
Foster City, California 94404

International Association for Medical
Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT)
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5620
New York, New York 10118

National Campers and Hikers Association
7172 Transit Road
Buffalo, New York 14221

National Recreation and Park Association
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Passport Services
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Department of State
1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20524

Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
of North America
3251 Old Lee Highway, Suite 412
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
P.O. Box 204
14650 Lee Road
Chantilly, Virginia 22021

Sierra Club
530 Bush Street
San Francisco, California 94108

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

United States Customs Service
Department of the Treasury
Office of Information and Publications
1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Coordinator for Information and Education
Office of the Executive Director
5401 Westbard Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20207

U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs
1009 Premier Building
1725 "I" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Vacation Exchange Club, Inc.
350 Broadway
New York, New York 10013

VOLUNTEER: The National Center
for Citizen Involvement
P.O. Box 4179
Boulder, Colorado 80306

Canada

Canadian Government Office of Tourism
4th Floor East
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H6

Canadian Hosteling Association
333 River Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8B9

Canadian Transport Commission
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N9

Consumer Services Branch
Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada
50 Victoria Street, 17th Floor
Place du Portage
Hull, Quebec K1A 0C9

Customs and Excise
Connaught Building
MacKenzie Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L5

Fitness Canada
The Journal Building
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0X6

Passport Office
L.B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G3

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Books and Pamphlets

There are many outstanding publications on practically every kind of recreational activity. Those listed below are not only highly useful but for the most part modestly priced. Most of the books are available at retail stores, but ordering information is included for those who wish to buy directly from the publisher.

Access National Parks, a Guide for Handicapped Visitors. 024-005-00691-5. National Park System. U.S. Department of the Interior. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $3.50.

Adventure Travel. (North America) Adventure Guides, Inc., 36 East 57th Street, New York, New York 10022. $7.95 plus $1.50 shipping and handling.

The American Biking Atlas & Touring Guide. Browder, Sue. Workman Publishing Co., Inc. 1 West 39th Street, New York, New York 10018. $5.95.

Backpacking. 001-000-04247-5. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $3.00.

Camping in the National Park System. 024-005-00607-1. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $2.00.

A Catalog of Guides to Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities. 024-016-00064-1. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $1.45.

Craft Sources—The Ultimate Catalog for Craftspeople. Colin, Paul, and Lippman, Deborah. M. Evans & Company, Inc., 216 East 49th Street, New York, New York 10017. Paperback: $5.95; hardcover: $12.50.

Customs Hints for Returning United States Residents, Know Before You Go. 048-002-00083-8. U.S. Customs Service. Order from Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $2.00.

Farm, Ranch & Country Vacations. (USA) Adventure Guides, Inc., 36 East 57th Street, New York, New York 10022. $7.95 plus $1.50 shipping and handling.

Hotel and Motel Red Book. Includes information on accommodations and prices. Available at libraries, airline, bus and railroad passenger sales offices.

I Declare. Customs and Excise. Address on page 38. Free.

Lesser-Known Areas of the National Park System. 024-005-00794-6. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $3.50.

Mort's Guide to Festivals, Feasts, Fairs & Fiestas—USA, Canada & Mexico. CMG Publications, Inc., Box 630, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. $2.95 plus $1.00 shipping and handling.

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National Directory of Budget Motels. Pilot Industries, Inc., 347 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10016. $3.50. (New edition available annually.)

National Forest Vacations. 001-000-02833-2. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. 90c.

National Parks of the United States: Guide and Map. 024-005-00771-7. National Park System, U.S. Department of the Interior. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $1.75.

Publications on Parks, Recreation and Leisure. National Recreation and Park Association. Address on page 38. Free.

Rand McNally's Campground & Trailer Park Guide. Rand McNally Chicago Retail Store, 23 East Madison, Chicago, Illinois 60603. $9.95.

RVDA Rental Directory. Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of North America. Address on page 38. $1.75 postpaid.

Travel Information: Canada. Canadian Government Office of Tourism. Address on page 38. Free.

Traveler's Toll-Free Telephone Directory. Landmark Publishing, Box 3287R, Burlington, Vermont 05401. $9.95. (New edition available annually.)

Whole World Handbook. Council on International Educational Exchange, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017. $4.95 plus $1.00 shipping and handling.

Woodall's Campground Directory. Woodall Publishing Co., 500 Hyacinth Place, Highland Park, Illinois 60035. $9.95. (New edition available annually.)

Your Trip Abroad. 044-000-01818-7. Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, address on page 38. $2.00.

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Acknowledgment

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DOROTHY E. BERRY, *Former Family Counselor, American Institute of Family Relations*, Tustin, California.

JAMES BRISTOR, *Professor, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, College of Agriculture, Michigan State University*, East Lansing, Michigan.

DEANNA BURNS, *Former Special Projects Coordinator, Regional Office, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs*, Toronto, Ontario.

Director of Technical Publications and Services, National Recreation and Park Association, Arlington, Virginia.

ALLAN S. FLISS, *Former Manager, Public Relations, American Society of Travel Agents, Inc.*, New York, New York.

JOHN F. GREENSLIT, *Executive Director, Michigan Recreation and Park Association*, Lansing, Michigan.

RICHARD C. HUNTER, *Deputy Executive Director, National Mental Health Association, Inc.*, Arlington, Virginia.

SANDY KEIR, *Assistant Director, Fitness Canada*, Ottawa, Ontario.

DENISE M. MATEJIC, *Family Resource Management Specialist, Associate Professor, Cooperative Extension Service, Cook College/Rutgers University*, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

JOSEPH J. MIRENDA, *Adult Education Program Coordinator, Division of Municipal Recreation and Community Education, Milwaukee Public Schools*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

National Park Service—Midwest Region, United States Department of the Interior, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

HILTON PEASTER, *Former Executive Director, Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of North America*, Boulder, Colorado.

THAYNE SMITH, *Former Public Relations Director, Recreation Vehicle Industry Association*, Chantilly, Virginia.

DAVID SPENCE, *Professor of General Business and Money Management, Monterey Peninsula College*, Monterey, California.

GILBERT WATSON, *Former Chief, Office of Consumer Services, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*, Washington, D.C.

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